



# FACT SHEET

## REINDUSTRIALIZATION: AT Work In OAK RIDGE

### Office of Worker & Community Transition

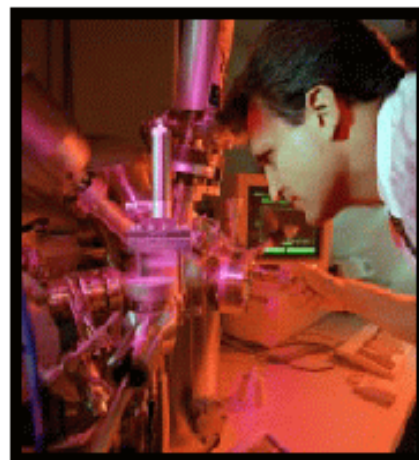
#### *Background and Challenges*

The K-25 site located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee was built in the 1940s to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. In late 1987, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) stopped production of uranium at the site. Ten years later in 1997, the K-25 site was renamed the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) to reflect its new mission of reindustrialization. The people, tools, and technologies that contributed to the Cold War and environmental cleanup efforts of the K-25 site are now leading the transition of ETTP to a commercial industrial park. By taking advantage of the assets at ETTP, private companies are helping to ensure the success of their businesses and the long-term economic health of the Oak Ridge community.

#### *The Path to Progress*

The Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) is a non-profit organization, funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), that works to help ease the impacts of federal budget cutbacks. CROET recruits businesses to ETTP to employ the highly-skilled work force, and reuse the wide range of industrial and office facilities, and valuable equipment for companies leasing space at ETTP.

CROET's mission is to create quality jobs for workers displaced by work force reductions and businesses locating at ETTP must meet certain job creation criteria. All locating companies are required to give hiring preference to displaced workers, and companies that create large numbers of well-paying jobs are granted reduced lease rates. The types of companies leasing the ETTP's space include scientific laboratories, Internet commerce enterprises, logistics companies, and metal fabrication and tooling shops. Leasing facilities at ETTP has created nearly 350 jobs since 1996. Reindustrialization also involves innovative programs such as trading cleanup services for favorable lease terms, an arrangement that saves millions of taxpayer dollars while accelerating the environmental restoration time period.



A company formed by displaced workers, Materials and Chemistry Laboratory, offers advanced materials sciences capabilities. Here, an employee analyzes materials using an electron microscope.



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### Leasing Success Stories

**Operations Management International (OMI)** is managing, operating, maintaining and rehabilitating utilities systems and infrastructure at the ETTP. In assuming the contract, OMI offered employment to all DOE contractor workers who had been performing these activities. OMI was presented the Malcolm Baldrige Award, the nation's highest award for quality achievement.

**Materials and Energy Corporation (M&EC), a Perma-Fix Environmental Services Company,** will employ up to 200 workers over the next five years at its new radioactive waste treatment center, drawing from a local work force that is expert in the safe handling, processing, transportation, and disposal of hazardous and radioactive materials. In exchange for favorable lease terms and commercial use of one of the buildings at ETTP, M&EC is performing decontamination and decommissioning of the building and removing all security classification concerns.

**Materials and Chemistry Laboratory (MCL)** was formed by a group of displaced workers who founded a corporation and leased a laboratory and its contents, including five electron microscopes. MCL is performing cleanup in its facility, removing radioactively contaminated laboratory hoods in exchange for reduced lease payments. MCL has recently been added to the Midwest Research Institute family of businesses.

**Dienamic Tooling Systems (DTS),** a tool-and-die maker that supplies the automotive industry, is providing jobs for machinists and other skilled employees. DTS moved into space that was cleaned up using funds from an advance lease payment made by another ETTP tenant.

**The Oak Ridge National Recycle Center (TORNRC)** operates a facility that repairs computers for resale or dismantles irreparable electronics into metal, glass, and plastic components to be sold to materials recyclers. Repaired computers are sold to private businesses and individuals. Typically 80,000 pounds of recyclable materials are shipped out of the center per week. TORNRC got its start with a grant from DOE through the Office of Worker and Community Transition and CROET and became profitable within the first year of operations.



Existing heavy tonnage cranes, a large open bay, and a built-in compressed air system make ETTP ideal for Dienamic Tooling Systems, a tool and die shop.

**Pall Industrial Membranes (PIM)** is using a classified process developed at ETTP to produce an unclassified product – high-tech inorganic membranes for use in liquid and gaseous separation devices. PIM products and operations are expected to have a major impact on the marketplace and employment opportunities for Oak Ridge residents.

#### Contact Information

For more information on this project or the Office of Worker and Community Transition, please access the ETTP web site [www.ettpreuse.com](http://www.ettpreuse.com) or contact:

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